



An annual tradition means bittersweet goodbyes for Aruban youth

The Reina Beatrix Airport was all a bustle on Wednesday evening as young students on their way to Holland and higher learning bid goodbye to friends and family that will likely not see them until the end of the year or longer. It is a tradition for most of Aruba's high school graduates to continue their education at universities in Holland, and the plane that will take them to Amsterdam is usually full.

For those that do not know of this annual event, the crowds at the airport must have been a mystery, but this is an important day in the lives of many young Arubans, often their first important step to real adulthood. Most are leaving the homes of their parents for the first time to live on their own, and very far away. There were many tears shed, not only by those bidding the students farewell, but the children that are leaving loving homes and the safety and comfort they feel on their cozy little island. For most, it was a bittersweet goodbye, filled with the excitement of new experience but the sadness of leaving behind those that are dear. THE NEWS wishes all success to those traveling far from home to continue their education!